

Spring 8-15-2013

## ENG 1105-001: English Forum

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### Recommended Citation

Vietto, Angela, "ENG 1105-001: English Forum" (2013). *Fall 2013*. 50.  
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## English 1105 / Fall 2013

### English Forum

Prof. Angela Vietto

Office: 3345 Coleman Hall

Office hours: M 1-2, W 2-3, R 2-4, F 1-2 & by appointment

Cell: 217-549-3203 (call or text before 9 p.m. only)

Email: arvietto@eiu.edu (expect a reply in the evening, usually 9-10 p.m.)

Welcome to English Forum and to the EIU English Department. This course is for students who are new to the English major or considering the English major. The course has several goals:

- to introduce you to the students and faculty, options of study, and other opportunities in the English Department
- to provide you with information you need to get the most out of your time in the English Department
- to help you begin career planning, including planning a path through the major

During each class meeting, we will spend at least part of our time on an activity related to each of these three goals.

#### Workload

As a 1 credit course, you should expect this class to require 50 minutes per week in class and *on average* 2 hours per week out of class.

#### Textbooks and readings

There are no texts from Textbook Rental for this course. We will have some assigned readings, which will be distributed in a variety of formats: some will be distributed in class as photocopies, others will be available through D2L, and still others will be web-based sources with links provided in D2L.

#### Information for students with disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

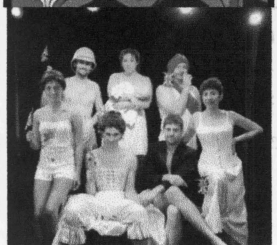
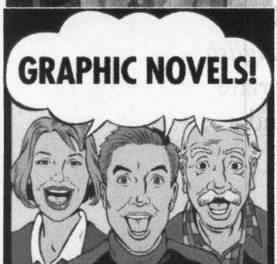
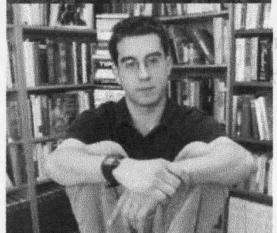
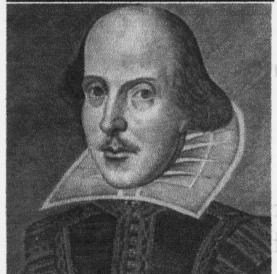
#### Meeting with me/communications

Although I will require you to meet with me twice individually and once in a small group, I invite you to come and talk with me about any issues you want to discuss related to the English major, academic plans, career plans, adjusting to EIU, etc.

Notice that (a) no appointment is required for office hours; (b) if my office hours don't work for you, you can make an appointment for a different time; (c) the best way to get a quick response from me, short of talking before or after class, is to use the phone, and yes, I accept text messages as well as phone calls.



*Mære*, the sea. From the North. "Mer, Germ.; mor, Welsh; mere, Anglo-Sax.; mar, Iceland.; more, Slavon." W. In Celtic mor' or muir.<sup>2</sup> Or from *μᾶρ* fut. 2. of *μᾶρ*, to divide. Horace: "Quā



## Assignments and Grading

This class is graded Pass/Fail. I will give you feedback on your work, but passing the course is a simple matter of whether or not you complete the minimum requirements. The requirements are:

- Attend or make up **13 out of 14 scheduled class meetings**
- Attend **2 individual conferences** and **1 small group meeting**
- Complete **5 short projects required of everyone** (marked with \*\* in the schedule)
- Complete **5 out of 10 homework assignments** (you choose which ones)

## Attendance

If you miss more than one class session, you must make up the class session(s) you missed after the first absence. To find out how to make up a missed class, check D2L, and *make sure you are doing the make-up work for the correct class session.*

## Late Work

I don't want to have to fail anyone for turning in work late. But deadlines matter, so:

- you may ask for an extension by phone *one day in advance* for projects or homework assignments as necessary, and
- you may turn in *one* assignment late *without* having asked for an extension, but you must meet with me in person to turn it in.

**D2L:** We will use D2L (EIU Online) for a variety of purposes: you will turn in assignments there on a regular basis, some reading assignments will be made available in our D2L space, and if you miss class, you will need to go to D2L to find out how to make up that day's class. So, it's essential that you have your EIU userid and password from the beginning of the semester, and that you get used to the system quickly. If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to ask me as soon as problems occur.

**The English Department's Statement on Plagiarism:** "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards."

**My Statement on Academic Integrity:** Given the nature of the writing assignments in this class, it should be very easy to avoid plagiarism. However, there are other forms of academic dishonesty (such as having another student sign an attendance sheet for you, claiming to have attended an out-of-class lecture when you didn't, etc.) So please be aware that I take academic integrity in all its forms very seriously. If you're ever tempted to cut corners because you don't feel you have enough time or you don't understand what you've been asked to do, pick up your phone and call or text me for help instead.

## Guest speakers

Because part of the purpose of the course is to introduce you to peers and faculty in English, we will have a number of guest speakers. As we will discuss, these guest speakers provide us with important information, *plus* they offer an opportunity for us to develop habits of professional self-presentation. These behaviors are related to your ability to impress faculty and reap the rewards that students get who do impress faculty, but also your ability to perform well at a job interview and/or on your first professional job.

Here's the ideal I would hope for when guest speakers come to class:

- Students arrive to class on time.
- Students get ready to take notes as soon as they arrive.
- When class begins, everyone turns their attention to the guest speaker.
- Everyone gives the guest speaker their *full* attention.
- Students look like they are paying attention (sitting up straight, making eye contact, taking notes).
- Students ask meaningful questions.
- No one comes in late.
- No one has ear buds in their ears, no matter how "quiet" or where they are sitting.
- No one carries on side conversations during the speaker's presentation.
- Everyone's phone is on silent and put away in a bag, and no one touches a phone (unless invited to do so by the speaker).
- No one walks out while the guest speaker is present.
- Everyone saves questions that aren't for the speaker (questions about class assignments, etc.) until after the speaker is gone.
- Students thank the speaker as he or she is leaving ("thank you" is generally more appropriate than applause, unless you have watched a performance or reading).

To some of you this might all seem very obvious, and even better, it might sound exactly like what you always do during class. If so, you have been lucky enough to have been prepared well for adult life by previous teachers and/or family.

However, given what I hear about high school in recent years, and given the general reluctance of many people to stop text messaging during class meetings, for some of you this might feel uncomfortable and difficult.

So, let's chat about these goals and how we can achieve them.

## Schedule

Topics covered and guest speakers will be scheduled throughout the semester, based on speaker availability. I will announce the next week's topics the week before (or earlier when possible). This schedule simply presents the schedule of assignments.

M Aug 19	Introductions: You, Me, Forum
M Aug 26	**Introduction and Survey Due Small group meetings later this week
M Sept 2	<i>Labor Day observed—no classes</i>
M Sept 9	**Current Resumé Due Homework #1 Individual conferences this week
M Sept 16	**Podcast Review Due Homework #2
R Sept 19	<i>Poetry reading by D. Nurkse, 6 p.m., Doudna Lecture Hall</i>
M Sept 23	Homework #3
M Sept 30	Homework #4
M Oct 7	Homework #5
M Oct 14	Homework #6
M Oct 21	**Spring 2014 Schedule Plan Due
M Oct 28	Homework #7
M Nov 4	Homework #8
M Nov 11	Homework #9
M Nov 18	**Prospective Resumé and Plan due Individual conferences this week
M Nov 25	<i>Thanksgiving Break—no class</i>
M Dec 2	Homework #10
Finals Week	No exam; social event?